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# MEDREGION UPDATE



MedRegion Office, Tunis

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**MEPI MedRegion Update Newsletter is produced by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) MedRegion Office at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia.**

**We welcome your feedback and suggestions!**

## A National Media Campaign Fosters Inclusive Citizenship in Lebanon



On anniversary of the outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War, MEPI partner ADYAN (Lebanese Foundation for Interfaith Studies and Spiritual Solidarity) launched a national awareness media campaign entitled "Lebanon is You and Me."

The campaign consisted of the broadcast TV spot with messages from Lebanese youth from different sectors, communities, and regions, fostering inclusive national identity among youth.

The one-minute spot was broadcast on seven channels (MTV, LBCI, Future, New TV, Charity TV, Tele Liban, Iman TV) as well as Facebook, twitter

and YouTube.

The national campaign is part of the broader project Many Communities, One Nationality: Champions for inclusive pluralism, which aims at decreasing sectarianism in Lebanon by empowering champions of plural inclusive citizenship.

Over the course of several months, ADYAN trained 100 Lebanese youth and 20 representatives of CSOs, political parties, religious organizations, educational institutions and media on national identity, religious diversity, and the components of a national inclusive citizenship. ■



On the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, MEPI partner Coup de Chance officially launched on May 3, the first Community web radio Station in Morocco “Darblanca”. Darblanca radio is a social development, culture and news-based community radio delivered in Moroccan Arabic.

Founded to represent the voice of voiceless Moroccan young people, Darblanca aims at presenting fair and balanced news, promoting human rights, the concepts

of democracy and citizenship and the spirit of tolerance as well as cultivating civic participation.

The shows topics include social issues, politics, economics, music, and culture. In addition, both media professionals and non-professionals, including students, NGO members, businesspeople, and the Moroccan public, including Moroccan Diaspora communities, will contribute to creating content for the station.



The project will be divided into two parts. The first part will be broadcasting, half of which will be done by 36 interns in order to gain experience, business management and marketing, fundraising,

budgeting and strategic planning. Second, several trainings and workshops will be carried out to a large number of young Moroccans, in addition to a practical online guide in Modern Standard Arabic. ■

## Palestinian Journalists Develop their Media Skills

MEPI media projects assist in building the professionalism of journalists, support the development of the press as an effective and credible watchdog, and help the public learn about the role of media in democratic societies. On April 18, 2013, MEPI partner, Al Watan Center held a closing ceremony of the “Promotion of Free Media, Democracy, Nonviolence among Women and Youth for Social Change in Hebron and Bethlehem” project. The project trained 35 Palestinian journalists to develop their professional skills and master media techniques.

The project aims to strengthen the media skills of the young participants and support the independence and professionalism of media efforts in the West Bank as the basis for non-violence and peace.



*Panel of government officials, the Al Watan Center representatives, and the Consulate General Jerusalem celebrate the participants*



Through a series of workshops, the organization of a photography workshop, and the production of a

documentary film, participants were trained to contribute to media that offer a diversity of views. Trained journalists have

also participated in 12 radio programs addressing issues related to youth, violence, civil participation, democracy change, and women's role in Palestinian society.

The graduation ceremony was presided over by Al Watan Center Director Nayef Hashlamoun, and remarks were given by the Mayor of Hebron, the Deputy Minister of Information, and Consulate General Jerusalem Press Attaché Leslie Ordeman.

The program also had musical performances, a comedian, a video of the participants' training, and finally, certificates of successful completion. The MEPI team, together with the Consulate's Press team, attended the ceremony and congratulated the graduates on their great achievement. ■



## The Arab Network for Civic Education Completes TOT Workshop for Members of Students Councils in Five Jordanian Universities



development and governance of their universities.

The training workshop also aimed to engage the largest possible number of youth, including males and females. These students participated in positive and practical projects that enabled them to engage with decision and policymakers at their universities to promote student citizenship and participation in university governance.

The MEPI-supported Yes We Can project includes, in addition to the TOT, several activities for the year, including training other active students in the universities and ending with a plan for other projects to be implemented that will engage more students.

During the project period, ANHRE will conduct follow-up visits to oversee the project's implementation and provide students with essential skills such as networking,

communication, project management, negotiation, and conflict resolution. At the end of the project, there will be an evaluation conference with university officials to present the outcomes and evaluate the project in its capacity to emphasize the values of human rights among students, activate the level of engagement of the students in their universities, and enhance performance of the student councils.

The Yes We Can project works with five public universities in five governorates, which are: The University of Jordan in Amman, The Hashemite University in Zarqa, Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, Tafilah Technical University, and Balqa Applied University in Salt.

ANHRE is an independent non-governmental Arab network that works to unify and coordinate efforts among different civil organizations that focus on with human rights and citizenship education. ANHRE also aims to influence the policies, procedures, and regulations to ensure the adoption of legislation that respect human dignity. ■



The Arab Network for Civic Education (ANHRE), within the project "Yes We Can," completed a training of trainers (TOT) workshop on Democratic Citizenship for 10 participants who are members of students' councils in five Jordanian universities. The training workshop was conducted during March 29 through

April 2, 2013 in Geneva Hotel in Amman, Jordan

The five-day training workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of students at councils in five public universities. This meant to develop student's skills that are essential to enhancing democratic values by exercising their rights to participate in the

## Spotlight on MEPI Alumni

### Social Media Training For MEPI Alumni in Gaza

From April 9 to May 1, 14 MEPI alumni completed 20 hours of theoretical and practical training on social media and blogging.

The alumni were exposed to various topics related to activism through social media. The training introduced different social media tools,



and taught participants how to create a blog, and

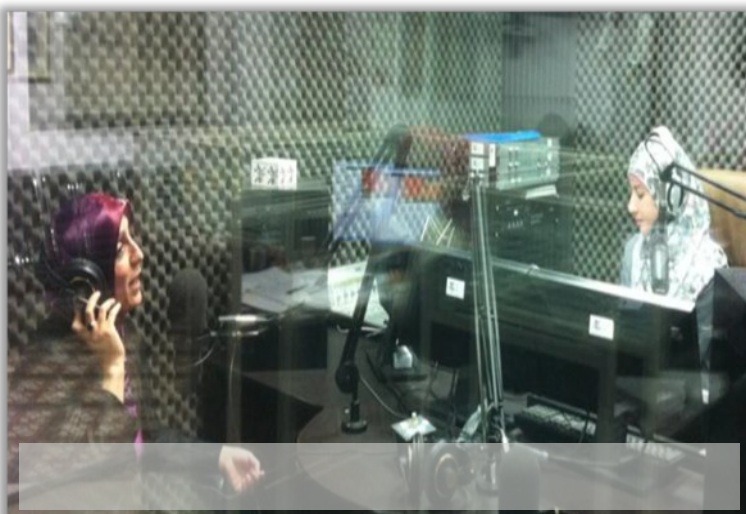
how to use twitter and other social media websites

for campaigning and advocacy. By the end of the training, each of the participants created his or her own accounts on different social media websites including blogs, and learned how to create a network of advocates to make positive change in their communities. ■

### MEPI Alumni Network West Bank and Gaza Chapter Kicks off Radio Shows Series

On April 22, Nisaa FM, a local radio station in Ramallah, and the MEPI Alumni Network in West Bank and Gaza kicked off the MEPI alumni radio show series. The series aims to address different topics and issues of interest to Palestinian youth. All six radio shows are moderated by prominent MEPI alumni to share their experiences, achievements and successes.

During the first episode, MEPI Alumni Coordinator Azza Hasan introduced the Alumni Network and



heightened the chapter's activities that were implemented in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On the second radio show on April 29, two MEPI alumni from the MEET

program - Samira Huleile and Najah Ossaily - shared their success stories of getting into the business world and being successful entrepreneurs. Samira Huleieh is currently the Director Manager of Ward

Company for Technical Services, and Najah is the Admin and Financial and Manager for Osaily Trading Contracting Company. Both Alumni talked about their experiences in the Middle East Entrepreneurship Training program and its impact on their career and achievements.

Episode 1:

[http://www.radionisaa.ps/pods/MEPI\\_22042013.mp3](http://www.radionisaa.ps/pods/MEPI_22042013.mp3)

Episode 2:

[http://www.radionisaa.ps/pods/MEPI\\_29042013.mp3](http://www.radionisaa.ps/pods/MEPI_29042013.mp3)

**Website:** medregion.mepi.state.gov  
**E-mail:** mepi-medregion@state.gov  
**Phone:** +216 71 107 055  
**Fax:** +216 71 107 436

MEPI Regional Office Tunis  
 U.S. Embassy  
 Les Berges du Lac— 1053  
 Tunis, Tunisia



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